Form 10-300 (July 1969) HDDED FIRIL 17, 1970

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE Illinois

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

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The Rookery is composed of eleven stories and a basement. It reaches a height of 164 feet and rests on spread foundations employing beam and rail grillages.

Square in plan, the building covers the entire lot. It is bounded on the north by Adams Street, on the south by Quincy Street, on the west by LaSalle Street, and on the east by an alley, and has a large interior light court. Thus the building is naturally lighted on all four sides and in the interior. In the Adams and LaSalle Street facades, the first two stories are of granite, the upper stories of dark brown brick and terra cotta. The walls of the light court and the first two stories along Quincy Street and the alley are constructed of cast-iron columns and spandrel beams. Thus, the building uses both masonry and skeletal construction.

The court lobby was remodeled by Frank Lloyd Wright in 1905. Wright removed most of John Root's original iron ornament and replaced it with simple geometric plans. The staircase was encased in white marble. Rectangular urns, also of marble, and rectangular light fixtures were also designed by Wright.

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The Rookery is a prime example of the development of the multistory commercial structure, utilizing the best construction methods then available. Its use of skeletal construction and fine ornamental detail place it directly in the mainstream of the "Chicago School" of architecture.

Regarding the ornament of the Adams and LaSalle facades, architectural historian Carl Condit states that "The architectural excellence of the Rookery's outer elevations grows chiefly out of the extraordinary openness of the walls, the airy yet vigorous articulation of the elevations, precise scale and pleasing proportions, and the firm integration of many diverse elements of decorative detail. The main entrances of the building, on Adams and LaSalle Streets, are among the best features of the outer elevations and are expressive of Root's love of richly ornamented entranceways." The Rookery is also noteworthy for its pioneering plan, which provides shops and offices around a graceful, semi-private square.

Daniel Burnham and John Root were two of Chicago's most significant and influential "Chicago School" architects. Their partnership was formed in 1873 and continued until Root's death in 1891. During this time they were responsible for approximately 250 structures throughout the country. The majority of their Chicago structures have been demolished.

The Rookery Building was presented a citation by the Commission on Chicago architectural Landmarks in 1962.

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9: MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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Roll 27, Frames (1-86) Daniel Burnham's letters and diaries

Condit, Carl, The Chicago School of Architecture, Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1964. pps. 56-58, 63-65 Copies in file

Seven photographs.

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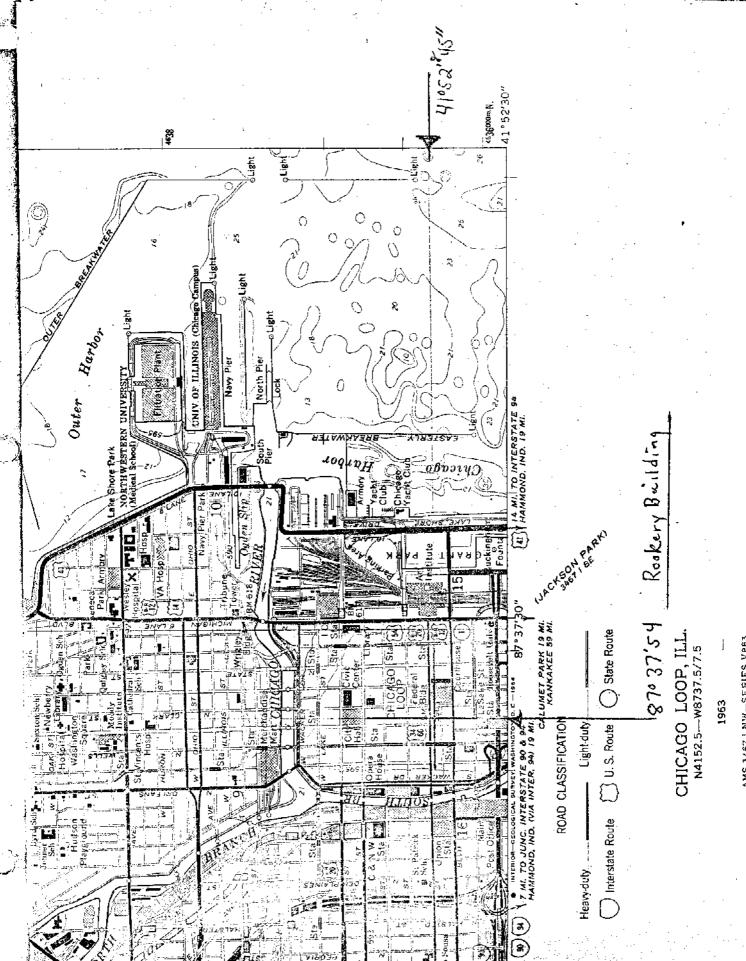
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

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- Randall, John D., A Guide to Significant Chicago Architecture of 1872 to 1922. Glencoe, Illinois, P.O. Box 345, 1958. p. 18.
- Rebori, A.N., "The Work of Burnham and Root, D.H. Burnham & Co., and Graham, Burnham & Co," The Architectural Record, Vol. 38, July-December, 1915, p. 42ff.
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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR 1Form 10-301 NATIONAL PARK SERVICE (July 1969) Illinois COUNTY NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES Cook FOR NPS USE ONLY PROPERTY MAP FORM ENTRY NUMBER DATE (Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map) T. NAME Rookery Building COMMON: AND/OR HISTORIC: 2. LOCATION STREET AND NUMBER: 209 South LaSalle Street CITY OR TOWN: Chicago CODE COUNTY: CODE STATE: 031 12 Cook <u>Illinois</u> 3. MAP REFERENCE SOURCE: USGS- Chicago Loop Quadrangle, 7.5 minute series 1:24000 9CALE: ш 1963 DATE: 4. REQUIREMENTS TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS 1. Property broundaries where required.

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ILLINOIS HISTORIC SITES SURVEY INVENTORY

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	Common Rookery Building		
	Historic		
2.	Location:		
	Street and Number 209 South LaSalle	Township	Section
	City or Town Chicago Zip Code	Range	1/4 Section
	<u>County</u> Cook		
3.	Classification:		
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4.	Ownership:	Status (check one)	Site
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5.	Ownership of Property:		
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Bibliography

Robertson, Robert, Of Whales and Men. New York, Alfred K. Knopf, Inc., 1954. National Register material.

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Description:

The Rookery is composed of eleven stories and a basement. It reaches a height of 164 feet and rests on spread foundations employing beam and rail grillages.

Square in plan, the building covers the entire lot. It is bounded on the north by Adams Street, on the south by Quincy Street, on the west by LaSalle Street, and on the east by an alley, and has a large interior light court. Thus the building is naturally lighted on all four sides and in the interior. In the Adams and LaSalle Street facades, the first two stories are of granite, the upper stories of dark brown brick and terra cotta. The walls of the light court and the first two stories along Quincy Street and the alley are constructed of cast-iron columns and spandrel beams. Thus, the building uses both masonry and skeletal construction.

The court lobby was modeled by Frank Lloyd Wright in 1905. Wright removed most of John Root's original iron ornament and replaced it with simple geometric plans. The staircase was encased in white marble. Rectangular urns, also of marble, and rectangular light fixtures were also designed by Wright.

Significance:

The Rookery is a prime example of the development of the multistory commercial structure, utilizing the best construction methods then available. Its use of skeletal construction and fine ornamental detail place it directly in the main-stream of the "Chicago School" of architecture.

Regarding the ornament of the Adams and LaSalle facades, architectural historian Carl Condit states that "The architectural excellence of the Rookery's outer elevations grows chiefly out of the extraordinary openness of the walls, the airy yet vigorous articulation of the elevations, precise scale and pleasing proportions, and the firm integration of many diverse elements of decorative detail. The main entrances of the building, on Adams and LaSalle Streets, are among the best features of the outer elevations and are expressive of Root's love of richly ornamented entranceways." The Rookery is also noteworthy for its pioneering plan, which provides shops and offices around a graceful, semi-private square.

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Bibliographical References:

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Condit, Carl, The Chicago School of Architecture, Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1964. pps. 56-58, 63-65. Copies in file.

Seven photographs.

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